

## Rep. Filner Talks Economy And More With Brawley Chamber of Commerce

By  
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On Monday, August 16, the Brawley Chamber of Commerce held a special question and answer session with Congressman Bob Filner (D-Chula Vista) about the economy and other issues pertaining to Brawley and Imperial County.

Filner, who currently represents the Imperial Valley in Washington D.C., said that the economy was stabilized by the Bush financial bailouts, but that it did little for the people directly.

"It's something like \$200,000 per family that we gave to the financial institutions. Can you imagine what would happen if we gave half that money to every family directly?"

For the Imperial Valley, Filner said that alternative and renewable energy was a silver lining for the area. Additionally, while most of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds have been spent, money used for alternative energy have not been allocated.

"The Department of Energy

was very late in getting their requirements posted, so most of that money is still available," explained Filner.

Filner also said that the entire region should create incentives to bring alternative energy businesses in, but encourage them to be responsible for the communities, like creating visitors centers and starting an eco-tourism side business.

Filner also took questions about the national debt, which he blamed on the Bush tax cuts while running two wars at the same time, and ways to jumpstart the economy.

"We need to get rid of our dependence on oil," said Filner. "That's where the Imperial Valley will be key, with the available renewable energy here."

Filner also brought up an issue in San Diego and their port, which could be used as a jumpstart to their economy had not the city been obsessed with being clean.

Other issues brought up was asking for help with the loss of business when the Brawley Bypass was completed in 2012 and members of the Brawley City Council asking for help with getting the upcoming Brawley fire substation built.



Congressman Bob Filner spoke to Brawley business people at the Chamber of Commerce on Monday. Photo by Chris Furguson.